

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus to which a process cartridge is detachably mountable,

said process cartridge comprising,

5 an image bearing member,

a charging member for electrically charging the image bearing member, and

a memory medium having a memory area for storing information relating to a charging current for
10 a non-image-formation period;

said apparatus comprising,

a control unit for switching a voltage to be applied to said charging member in accordance with the information stored in said memory medium.

15

2. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said memory medium has a second memory area for storing information relating to a charging current for an image-formation period.

20

3. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said control unit switches the voltage depending on whether said apparatus is in the image-formation period or in the non-image-formation period, in accordance with the
25 stored information relating to the charging current for the image-formation period and the stored information relating to the charging current for the

non-image-formation period.

4. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said
memory medium further includes a third memory area for
5 storing information relating to a usage amount of said
image bearing member, wherein said control unit
switches the voltage in accordance with the stored
information relating to the charging current for the
image-formation period, the stored information
10 relating to the charging current for the non-image-
formation period and the stored information relating
to the usage amount of said image bearing member.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the
15 pieces of the information relating to the charging
currents includes voltages to be applied to said
charging member, and wherein the information relating
to the charging current for the non-image-formation
period is smaller than the information relating to the
20 charging current for the image-formation.

6. A process cartridge detachably mountable to an
image forming apparatus, said process cartridge
comprising:
25 an image bearing member;
a charging member for electrically charging
said image bearing member;

a memory medium for storing information relating to said process cartridge, said memory medium having a memory area for storing information relating to a charging current for non-image-formation period.

5

7. A process cartridge according to Claims 6, wherein said memory medium has a second memory area for storing information relating to a charging current for an image-formation period.

10

8. A process cartridge according to Claims 6, wherein said memory medium further includes a third memory area for storing information relating to a usage amount of said image bearing member.

15

9. A process cartridge according to Claims 6, wherein the pieces of the information relating to the charging currents includes voltages to be applied to said charging member, and wherein the information relating to the charging current for the non-image-formation period is smaller than the information relating to the charging current for the image-formation.

20

10. A memory medium for a cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, said cartridge including an image bearing member and a

25

charging member for electrically charging the image bearing member, said memory medium comprising a memory area for storing information relating to a charging current for non-image-formation period.

5

11. A memory medium according to Claim 10, further comprising a second memory area for storing information relating to a charging current for image-formation period.

10

12. A memory medium according to Claim 11, further comprising a third memory area for storing information relating to a usage amount of the image bearing member.

15

13. A memory medium according to Claim 10, wherein the pieces of the information relating to the charging currents includes voltages to be applied to said charging member, and wherein the information relating to the charging current for the non-image-formation period is smaller than the information relating to the charging current for the image-formation.

20

14. An image forming system for an image forming apparatus comprising a main assembly and a cartridge, wherein said image forming apparatus contains a part of process means for forming an image, wherein said

25

system comprising:

a memory medium provided in said cartridge;

said memory medium including,

a memory area for storing information

5 relating to a charging current for non-image-formation
period,

said system further comprising a control unit
for switching a voltage to be supplied to said
charging member in accordance with the information
10 stored in said memory medium.

15. An image forming system according to Claim 14,
wherein said memory medium has a second memory area
for storing information relating to a charging current
15 for an image-formation period.

16. An image forming system according to Claim 11,
wherein said memory medium further includes a third
memory area for storing information relating to a
20 usage amount of said image bearing member, wherein
said control unit switches the voltage in accordance
with the stored information relating to the charging
current for the image-formation period, the stored
information relating to the charging current for the
25 non-image-formation period and the stored information
relating to the usage amount of said image bearing
member.

17. An image forming system according to Claim 11,
wherein the pieces of the information relating to the
charging currents includes voltages to be applied to
said charging member, and wherein the information
5 relating to the charging current for the non-image-
formation period is smaller than the information
relating to the charging current for the image-
formation.

10

15

20

25